

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/656,727	HASEGAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Johnnie L Smith II	2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to RCE and amendment filed 09/07/2004.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
- The drawings filed on 9/15/04 are accepted by the Examiner.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0907
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/07/2004 was considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-15 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art searched and cited failed to teach or fairly suggest an exposure apparatus, measuring system, or fabrication method having a differential pumping system comprising a first chamber storing a light source that emits light; a second chamber that receives light from the chamber; and a vacuum pump, provided between said first and second chambers, which includes a hollow shaft through which the light passes, and exhausts the hollow shaft in combination with the remaining elements of claims 1 or 9-15. Claims 2-8 are allowable because of their dependencies upon claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled
“Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US patent publication; 2004/0075063 (Hasegawa et al), and EPO publication EP 1,396,760 (Hasegawa et al). All of the cited references contain art similar to that being claimed by applicant, more specifically, methods and apparatuses for contain debris from laser plasma radiation sources.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnnie L Smith II whose telephone number is 571-272-2481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7-4 P.M. and Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R Lee can be reached on 571-272-2477. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Johnnie L Smith II
Examiner
Art Unit 2881


NIKITA WELLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/18/04